MEDICINAL PLANTS IN CALIFORNIA.—*Grindelia robusta*, which grows throughout the State supplies a balsam of a resinous character, most abundant in the buds, but found in all the juices of the plant. As a cure for the eruption occasioned by contact with the "poison oak," the balsam is accounted almost a specific. It is also in demand in the Atlantic States as a remedy for asthma and bronchial affections.

The leaves of the *Eucalyptus*, serving as the stuffing of a pillow, have been found beneficial in relieving neuralgic headaches; and a tincture prepared from the leaves has a variety of uses in medicine.

One of the newest of vegetable drugs is obtained from the *Yerba santa*, a shrub known also as gum-weed, mountain balsam, wild peach, and bears' weed. The leaves contain a resinous substance highly spoken of as an ingredient in cough mixtures, and for the cure of bronchial and laryngeal disorders.

The collection and drying of medicinal plants in California, for shipment to manufacturing chemists at the East, is gradually becoming a business of importance.—[N. Y. TRIBUNE.]

ANEMONE CAROLINIANA.—I have two specimens of *Anemone Caroliniana*, Walt., collected April 23d, 1878, with rudimentary flowers, consisting of a single sepal of the usual size and color in one plant, and situated about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch below the ordinary terminal flowers. The other plant has a single sepal about twice the length of the ordinary ones, purple, with greenish margins, situated in the axil of the three-parted involucre. Both sepals seemed to have a strong inclination to twine, or wrap around the stem from left to right. These two plants were found about half a mile apart on a R. R. grade.—M. H. PANTON, *Junction City, Kan.*

HETEROMORPHISM IN PLANTAGO CORDATA, LAM.—While examining several plants of this species, I noticed that several spikes on each plant did not show the usual proterogynous condition, also that the stamens seemed longer than usual. A closer examination showed that the flowers were perfect, but the styles were only two mm. in length. The styles in the spikes which were of the common form, were six mm. in length. The stamens in the short-styled flowers were nine mm. in length, while those of the long-styled flowers were only six mm. in length. The earlier flowering spikes of each plant were of the short styled form, while the later flowering spikes were all long styled. If this species was entomophilous we could see some advantage to be derived from this mixed condition of things. It is possible this may be a case of a monœcious condition or a dicœcious condition about to be, in fact, in the very process of becoming.—C. F. WHEELER, *Hubbardston, Mich.*

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.—During the summer of 1876 I was in Readsboro, Vt., and found *Eupatorium ageratoides* growing 4 to 5 feet high, with leaves 4 to 7 inches long and correspondingly wide. Going back to Williamstown, Mass., 20 miles to the southwest, I found every specimen 2 or $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet high or less, with leaves only 2 or 3 inches in length.

Can any one tell me how to distinguish *Aster Tradescanti*, L., from *A. miser*, L., Ait? I have never found anything that I could conscientiously call *A. Tradescanti*, although others have given that name to some specimens that I called *A. miser*. Prof. Peck, of Albany, told me that he also had never found what he could call *A. Tradescanti*.

Gray's Manual describes *Solidago altissima*, L., as "2 to 7 inches high—instead of the tallest, as its name denotes, it is usually one of the lowest of the common Golden rods." I think I have never found it less than 2 feet high under any circumstances, seldom less than 4 feet.—CHAS. H. FORD, *Geneseo, Ill.*

While peeling the bark from a freshly cut black locust post, I noticed that the cambium layer smelled precisely like bruised green beans. The scent was recognized by several others without my telling them what I had observed. I have not yet tested further whether this novel way of tracing the affinity of plants may be made useful or not.—J. M. Milligan, *Jacksonville, Ill.*

When in Crawfordsville, Ind., a few weeks ago, I was pleased to find in the grounds of Prof. Wm. C. White, some beautiful plants of *Euphorbia dentata*. They had neither been planted there nor escaped from elsewhere, but evidently were relics of the old times when the forest in all that region was unbroken.—J. M. C.

Juniperus occidentalis in Colorado.—Since my arrival at this Agency, my attention has been drawn to the Juniper which, mixed with *Pinus edulis*, covers the mesas and foot hills throughout this part of S. W. Colorado. Its botanical character seemed to be so distinct from *J. Virginiana*, that I at once thought it to be *J. occidentalis*, with the description of which, in Clarence King's Report on the Botany of the 40th parallel, it seems to agree perfectly. But he says "not reported from Colorado." Neither is it spoken of in Hayden's Synopsis of the Colorado Flora, 1874. The exploring parties since then may have discovered and published its occurrence here. The tree rarely becomes conical like *J. Virginiana*, the fruit always glaucous, and two or three times as large as the fruit of that species. Heart wood usually brown, rarely red. Height 12–20 feet. Branches wide spread.—William F. Flint, *Los Pinos, Indian Agency, Colorado.*

The Big Trees, by J. G. Lemmon.—In 1875, I took a trip of 400 miles to revisit the Big Trees, count their rings and bring away sprays, cones, seeds, bark and wood sections for the Centennial. I visited several groves, closely examined hundreds of trees, especially giving attention to the fallen and shattered monsters, generally larger than living trees of the same grove.

The great *Sequoias* are monsters indeed for size and magnificent in their columnar appearance; they are well worthy a trip across the continent to behold, but why exaggerate their age? The truth is strange enough. "Over-statement," Dr. Gray mildly puts it. It is, indeed, a wonderful deviation from the truth when to large figures we add double their sum. From this time forward I must help fight the "over-statement." The battle will be long and fierce, no doubt, for the story of 3,000 or 4,000 years is very proudly related and never fails to excite interest; and it is repeated in nearly every guide book for tourists, moreover reiterated by eminent travelers and close observers, including John Muir, than whom none gives us such charming views of mountain scenery, such picturesque forest studies. But let the truth always be told, searching for it, if need be, under the most deceptive appearances. I scold myself daily because, for want of time, I took the figures of reputed authorities and gave currency to the big story of the Big Trees. Let me retract so much of last year's "Scene 11, The Big Trees," as was carelessly based upon their reported great age of 3,000 or 4,000 years, and substitute the following cold facts and estimates. I substitute the true figures cheerfully, gladly, triumphantly. The big trees are but 1,200 to 1,500 years old, and I am glad they are not older. There is proud satisfaction in the thought, but let me repress my joy and its reason for the present and proceed with the cool facts.

On the 1st of September, 1875, I arrived at the famous Mammoth Grove of Big Trees in Calaveras county, and at once commenced careful observations.

First, a quiet, reverential walk among the tall fluted columns, my spirit dumb with wonder, my mind raised to sublime conceptions, my reason almost persuaded that any large story of the great *Sequoias* must be true. Round and round, in and out among the vast trunks the well-worn path leads. Here and there a long flight of steps enables the visitor to reach the upper side of the fallen trunks, where a most impressive view